

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 00585 111700Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MC-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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R 111533Z JAN 77  
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AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 0585

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MMOL MASS PFOR EG FR  
SUBJECT: FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER BOURGES VISIT TO EGYPT

REF (A) USDAO CAIRO 051545Z JAN 77 (B) USDAO CAIRO 071520Z JAN 77

1. SUMMARY. FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER YVON BOURGES COMPLETED FIVE-DAY VISIT TO EGYPT JANUARY 9 DURING WHICH HE WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND HAD SEVERAL WORKING SESSIONS WITH HIS HOST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF WAR GENERAL GAMASY. CAIRO PRESS GAVE PROMINENCE TO VISIT AND TO PROSPECTS FOR PURCHASE OF MORE FRENCH ARMS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ARMS INDUSTRY UNDER ARAB INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION (AIO). PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PARTICIPANTS WERE, HOWEVER, VAGUE ON SPECIFICS. CONSENSUS OF LOCAL OBSERVERS IS THAT NO NEW CONTRACTS SIGNED AND LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE TRANSPIRED. END SUMMARY.

2. AFP CORRESPONDENT SUMMARIZED BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION AS FOLLOWS:  
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 00585 111700Z

A) BILATERAL. IN ADDITION TO PREVIOUS ORDERS (MIRAGE 3, MIRAGE F-1, GAZELLE HELICOPTERS, RADAR INSTALLATION AND CROTALE MISSILES) OTHERS WILL BE MADE, PARTICULARLY AERONAUTICAL EQUIPMENT. ONE ALSO HEARS TALK OF DELIVERY OF TWO FRENCH SUBMARINES.

B) WITH AIO. FRENCH MINISTER RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM HIS

EGYPTIAN INTERLOCUTORS THAT ARAB CAPITAL WOULD BE AVAILABLE THIS YEAR AND THAT SINCE INFRASTRUCTURE ALREADY IN PLACE, FIRST MIRAGE 5 COULD COME OFF AIO ASSEMBLY LINES BEGINNING OF 1978. FIRST 100 FRENCH TECHNICIANS SENT BY SNECNA ARE EXPECTED "SOON".

3. AFP REPORT ALSO SAID CAPITAL OF AIO WILL BE ONE BILLION DOLLARS AND THE THREE COUNTRIES (SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR AND UAE) HAVE ALREADY SUPPLIED FIRST TRANCHE OF \$54 MILLION. EGYPTIAN ENTHUSIASM FOR COOPERATION WITH FRANCE REMAINED HIGH, ACCORDING TO AFP, BECAUSE COOPERATION WITH EITHER GREAT POWER COULD RESULT IN FORM OF POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE FOR EGYPT AS EXPERIENCE OF RECENT PAST PROVED.

4. IN MEETING WITH CHARGE JANUARY 11, FRENCH COUNSELOR LUCET WAS RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE DETAILS ABOUT VISIT. IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTIONS, HE WOULD ONLY SAY THAT WHILE NO AGREEMENTS WITH AIO WERE SIGNED GOE REMAINS VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE OF THIS ORGANIZATION AND SO THEREFORE DOES GOF. HE PROFESSED TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT POSSIBLE CONCERN OF DONOR COUNTRIES OVER ECONOMICS OF ESTABLISHING SOPHISTICATED ARMS INDUSTRY IN EGYPT. ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, LUCET SAID GOE IS KEEPING UP PAYMENTS ON PAST PURCHASES AND FUTURE PURCHASES BEING NEGOTIATED. HE SAID HE COULD NOT DISCUSS WHAT THESE LATTER MIGHT BE SINCE THEY WERE IN NEGOTIATING STAGE. LUCET SAID BOURGES HAD BEEN IMPRESSED ON HIS VISIT TO TANTA AIRBASE AND TO AMMUNITION FACTORY BY HIGH TECHNICAL LEVEL AND COMPETENCE OF EGYPTIAN PILOTS AND TECHNICIANS.

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 00585 111700Z

5. COMMENT: RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN JOURNALIST GOT IMPRESSION FROM HIS CONTACTS WITH FRENCH DEL AND GOE THAT BOURGES WAS ANGRY WITH LACK OF PROGRESS WITH AID AND THAT FRENCH SUSPECT EGYPT'S FINANCIAL BACKERS ARE INDEED HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT WISDOM OF CREATING SOPHISTICATED ARMS INDUSTRY HERE. MATTHEWS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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